

SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI

No1 July '81



THE YORKSHIRE MURDERS - WOMEN ON TRIAL

In May Peter Sutcliffe was found guilty of the murders of 13 women and the attempted murder of 7 others.

Criticisms have been made about the media's reactions to this case. Tasteless articles have been written, stories bought at a price, illustrated with photos though the stark reality needed no embellishment.

But amongst all this, there are still questions left unanswered. Why is it that men display such violence towards women? Why has it become such an accepted and everyday part of our society? And why is it that not one of our popular newspapers have thought these questions relevant enough to ask?

Consider the way women were treated throughout the trial - the victims were categorized into 'pure' women or prostitutes, the implication being that it is somehow not so terrible to kill a prostitute. Sutcliffe's wife was described as having a history of mental illness, a neurotic who perhaps drove her husband to commit the atrocities. We are meant to believe that she is not totally blameless. It is incredible that we could accept this crap - a situation where the women victims, are in fact women on trial.

The murders shocked the nation, but should we have been so shocked? We go to the cinema and watch women hacked to death for our entertainment, rape and wife-battering is a common occurrence, women are subjected to sexual harassment at work and on the street - Normality.

City workers show way

The workers at Greyfriars House Social Security offices in Aberdeen have been among the most active in the civil servants' fight for a 15% rise with a £10 per week minimum increase. During April and May they were on unofficial and unpaid strike for 5 weeks, along with 100 DHSS employees in Dundee. They sent representatives country-wide, arguing for an all-out strike.

A DHSS worker told us that if civil servants could win without hurting the unemployed, by totally shutting down airports, Ministry of Defence, etc. - that would be best. BUT the civil servants in these areas are less likely to strike than DHSS.

Claimants from Middlefield and Ferriers-Sandilands joined the pickets at Greyfriars House to support the civil servants. Claimants and civil servants have formed a Liaison Committee. This is intended to continue after the dispute. The DHSS

employee told us that if DHSS went on all-out strike she and her colleagues would support claimants occupying DHSS and Social Services offices demanding emergency payments.

The stakes in the dispute are now very high - the government want to smash civil servants' organisation. In Cumbernauld union official Ted Elsee has been charged under the notorious Conspiracy Laws for tracking down and following strike-breakers doing work secretly.

To date the Union leaderships have controlled the dispute with their ineffective policy of selective strikes. To win the workers need to run the struggle themselves. A DHSS worker stated that though the Unions had decided to continue with the selective strike policy she hoped civil servants would go ahead with an all-out strike unofficially.

In our society it is considered desirable and proper for men to be aggressive and dominant, but there's a very thin wedge between 'legitimate' macho aggression and illegitimate violence.

Sutcliffe has been jailed and will probably not be allowed to kill again, but his life sentence is no solution. Radical change is needed in our society. We need to do away with unequal relationships based on one person having power over another. Women must live free from the fear of male violence. Women need to fight for the eradication of a society which so obviously condones the continued use of violence towards them.

GREENOCK SIT-IN

Lee Jeans workers are occupying their Greenock factory to resist Vanity Fair Corporation's attempt to throw them all on the dole. They need other workers, such as dockers and lorry drivers, to block VF products worldwide. In Aberdeen Peters Stores, Grand Canyon and Roxy are selling Lee Jeans. More info from donations to: the Lee Jeans workers via ELLEN MONAGHAN, 55 CAMBRIDGE RD., GREENOCK; SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI; LEE JEANS SUB-COMMITTEE, TRADES COUNCIL, ADELPHI, ABERDEEN, who have collection forms for making regular weekly donations.

ABOUT OURSELVES

All the media are biased. The Press and Journal and Grampian TV will never present news or views that might upset the big firms that provide their advertising cash, or annoy the rich people who own and control them. Our bias is against the small groups that have all the power in this world and in favour of all people who are getting together to assert their needs against those of the system. We want not only to report on these struggles but also offer practical support if we can.

If you know of anything we could report, investigate, or be involved in action on, it would be great if you let us know. In particular we'd love to do something about the evil rack-eteering landlords that are making a killing out of the housing shortage in Aberdeen. You can get in touch with us at : SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI, C/O BOOMTOWN BOOKS, 167 KING ST., ABERDEEN.

The Graffiti is produced by people in Solidarity (Aberdeen) and other revolutionaries in Aberdeen and the North East.

We'd like to see all governments, bosses, and leaders overthrown by a revolution in which the majority of people, who at the moment are just expected to follow orders, all play an equal part. And we'd like to see the creation of a world where we can all have a say in how things are run and where production is for human need not profit.

SOLIDARITY DISCUSSION MEETING
7.30 TUES. 30TH JUNE IN ST.
KATHERINES, W.NORTH ST..

Glasgow Riots

Solidarity with the struggle of the H-Block prisoners in Northern Ireland for their 5 demands has been shown recently in Scotland, but you won't have read about it in the newspapers, who deliberately don't want you to hear about such things in case you take it into your head to do the same.

In Coatbridge a police station was petrol-bombed. In Priesthill and Blackhill in Glasgow youths barricaded the streets and threw stones and petrol bombs at police vehicles. This spontaneous action by local people exploded over the Irish issue, but, as with Brixton, it is the culmination of years of growing resentment against the aggressive practises of the police, and the run-down housing and lack of work in the area.

Other news from Glasgow : a territorial army building on the south side of the city was bombed soon after hunger-striker Bobby Sands' death. Again, the papers have kept this quiet.

The deaths and possible future deaths of hunger strikers in Northern Ireland should concern everyone living in Britain. The increasing totalitarian nature of the British state is combined in N.Ireland with the decay of capitalism and archaism of Britain's past imperialism : slum housing, the highest unemployment in Europe, and the army's repression amount to a social, economic and military violence. The full might of the police state controls your life if you

live in Northern Ireland. troops in the streets, raiding your house, harrassing and intimidating Catholics, often picking them up, giving them a beating and dumping them in a loyalist area to be given a further beating.

The H-Block prisoners were all arrested under special legislation, held and interrogated in special interrogation centres such as the notorious Castlereagh, where 'confessions' were extracted under torture. All were charged with politically-motivated 'offences' ('scheduled offences' in Newspeak) and remanded for up to 2 years before a political show-trial in the no-jury Diplock Courts.

For information about the Aberdeen Hunger-Strike Action Committee, contact BOX 29, 167 KING ST., ABERDEEN.

THE GRAFFITI'S VIEW ON THE CONFLICT IN N.IRELAND :

Very briefly : We support peoples' struggles against the state to fight for their needs - including the prisoners' struggle for better conditions. We oppose the British state and the brutal activities of its army. We oppose the I.R.A. which aims to create a new Irish state in which they would be the new bosses. We oppose the Protestant paramilitary groups which uphold the present oppressive set-up. We aim to encourage unity between 'Catholic' and 'Protestant' workers in class struggle against the appalling working and social conditions in N.Ireland.

ANNA KIST

